



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

March 13, 2006

News Release

ICE worksite enforcement operation nets more than 50 illegal aliens *--Aliens were all working for one company--*

Philadelphia, PA. -- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents from Philadelphia and New Jersey have arrested 57 illegal aliens working at four car washes here and in Cherry Hill, N.J. The arrests occurred this morning during a worksite enforcement operation at the four locations owned by Super Bright Car Wash. The investigation was conducted by the ICE Identity & Benefit Fraud Task Force, which is comprised of ICE, U.S. Department of Labor and Social Security Administration special agents.

An investigation determined that the aliens were illegally in the United States and were not authorized to work. The individuals will be charged with being present in the country illegally and will be ordered to appear in immigration court to answer those charges. They are currently being processed at various locations and ICE will make custody determinations based on each individual case. All of the arrests occurred at businesses owned by Super Bright Car Wash. Fifty-six of the people arrested were Mexican nationals and one was from Ecuador.

John Kelleghan, acting special agent in charge of the Philadelphia ICE office said, "This operation shows that people who enter this country illegally do not have a free pass to work, taking jobs from citizens and legal foreign nationals. People who work illegally are often vulnerable to substandard wages, long hours, poor and unsafe working condition. Because they live in the shadows," Kelleghan said, "they have few alternatives if they are exploited."

Kelleghan said ICE deportation officers from the Philadelphia and Cherry Hill offices assisted in today's operation, along with special agents assigned to the U.S. Department of Labor and the Social Security Administration. He also thanked police departments from Philadelphia, East Norriton Township, Lower Merion Township, Springfield Township and Cherry Hill for their assistance in the operation.

The illegal workers were arrested at the following Super Bright Car Wash locations.

- 13 illegal aliens arrested at 931 East Lancaster Avenue, Bryn Mawr
- 7 illegal aliens arrested at 10 East Germantown Avenue, Norristown
- 14 aliens were arrested at 1100 Bethlehem Pike, Flourtown,

- 23 illegal aliens arrested 1505 East Marlton Pike, Cherry Hill, NJ

An employer who knowingly hires unauthorized workers may be criminally prosecuted or be faced with administrative fines of up to \$11,000 per person. ICE works with employers to educate them about their responsibilities in this area. In addition, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) operates the Basic Pilot Program, a web-based application that employers can use to verify the employment eligibility of newly hired workers. The Basic Pilot Program is now available nationwide.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.